

Amendments to the Claims: Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) A ~~device~~ server for developing, producing, ~~and/or~~ or configuring an automation system, comprising:

a storage system in the server, in which are stored ~~the~~ in a first format files needed ~~and/or~~ or created for the production ~~and/or~~ or configuration of the automation system; and

~~an~~ a communications interface in the server via which a remote client accesses ~~program files and/or data~~ the files, wherein the interface features comprises first means for transmitting to one or more remote clients a copy of ~~the file or of each of the~~ selected ones of the files stored ~~in the storage system~~ in a second format that can be processed by the remote client, and ~~that the interface features comprises~~ comprises second means for receiving files created ~~and/or~~ or modified from ~~the remote client or from each remote client~~, converting the received files into the first format, and storing the received files into the storage system in the first format.

28. (new) The server of claim 27, wherein a plurality of clients access the files, and further comprising a security device in the server that authorizes a specific selection of the files to each of the clients by password interrogation.

29. (new) The server of claim 28, further comprising an access management device in the server that resolves conflicts when first and second clients attempt to simultaneously access a given file by locking the given file for access by only the first client, and indicating a locked status to the second client.

30. (new) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until the earliest requesting client releases the file.

31. (new) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device coordinates access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the file, then notifies the earliest requesting client of the later requesting client, and allows the earliest requesting client to choose to retain access or release it.

32. (new) The server of claim 29, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by assigning different access priorities to different clients, locks the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the given file, then compares the access priorities of the earliest and later requesting clients, and if the later requesting client has higher access priority than the earliest requesting client, notifies the earliest requesting client that access to the given file will be switched to the later requesting client, otherwise continuing to reserve the given file for the earliest requesting client.

33. (new) A server for engineering and configuring an automation system, comprising:
a memory in the server for storing files for engineering and configuring the automation system, wherein the files are stored in a first format that can be processed by the server; and
an interface in the server for providing network access to the files by a client remote from the server, wherein the interface comprises:

a first means for making a copy of selected files in the memory, converting the copy to a second format that can be processed by the client, and transmitting the copy in the second format to the client; and

a second means for receiving files created or modified by the remote client, converting the received files from a received format into the first format, and storing them in the memory.

34. (new) The server in accordance with claim 33, wherein:
the remote client is embodied as a browser-based client that communicates with the interface via an Internet or Intranet data line;

the first and second means provide conversion means for graphics files and conversion means for text files;

the conversion means for graphics files converts graphics files stored in the memory into an SVG format that can be processed by the remote client and vice versa; and

the conversion means for text files converts the text files stored in the memory into a DHTML format that can be processed by the remote client.

35. (new) The server in accordance with Claim 34, further comprising an access management device, which, if more than one remote client accesses a file stored in the memory, only allows access by one of these remote clients.

36. (new) The server of claim 33, wherein a plurality of clients access the files, and further comprising a security device in the server that authorizes each client access to a specific selection of files in the memory by password interrogation of each client.

37. (new) The server of claim 36, further comprising an access management device in the server that resolves conflicts when first and second clients attempt to simultaneously access a given file by locking the given file for access by only the first client, and indicating a locked status to the second client.

38. (new) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until the earliest requesting client releases the file.

39. (new) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device coordinates access to the given file by locking the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the file, then notifies the earliest requesting client of the later requesting client, and allows the earliest requesting client to choose to retain access or release it.

40. (new) The server of claim 37, wherein the access management device prioritizes access to the given file by assigning different access priorities to different clients, locks the given file for access by an earliest requesting client until a later requesting client requests the given file, then compares the access priorities of the earliest and later requesting clients, and if the later requesting client has higher access priority than the earliest requesting client, notifies the earliest requesting client that access to the given file will be switched to the later requesting client, otherwise continuing to reserve the given file for the earliest requesting client.